

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 203732

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 2232 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN
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QUOTE S E C R E T NICOSIA 2232

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PGOV, CY

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FAMAGUSTA: GOC CALL FOR
UNSC ACTION

REFS: (A) STATE 179029; (B) NICOSIA 2228

1. GOC HAS ANNOUNCED A GOVERNMENT DECISION TO CALL
FOR AN URGENT SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS SC
TO CONSIDER THE CYPRUS SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF "CONTINUING
VIOLATION" BY TURKEY OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS IN GENERAL AND
THE THREAT OF FAMAGUSTA'S "COLONIZATION" IN PARTICULAR.
THE DECISION WAS TAKEN UNANIMOUSLY BY A JOINT MINISTERIAL
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CABINET AND NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 24. IN THE
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REQUEST TO THE UNSC THE GOC
MADE IT CLEAR THIS ACTION WILL NOT AFFECT THE RECOURSE TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH "WILL ALSO BE REQUESTED TO CONSIDER
MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PAST UN RESOLUTIONS." ALSO ON
AUGUST 25 GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS MET
WITH UNSYC SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DE CUELLAR AND INFORMED HIM

THAT "IF THE (FAMAGUSTA) COLONIZATION CONTINUES, IF THE (TURKISH) INVASION IS EXTENDED, THEN AUTOMATICALLY THE OBJECT OF THE (INTERCOMMUNAL) TALKS IS REMOVED."

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CURRENT SITUATION IN VAROSHA HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM DATT AND HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY HIM TO DIA AS AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT. ON AUGUST 16 TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN VAROSHA WERE OBSERVED CHANGING STREET SIGNS ON THE STREETS IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF VAROSHA AND ON KENNEDY AVENUE ALONG IT LENGTH FROM GREEK TO TURKISH NAMES. THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT TRAFFIC INTO VAROSHA HAS BEEN INCREASING AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT MANY OF THE STREETS IN THE CLOSED AREA HAVE BEEN CLEANED. SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT IN THE CLOSED PART OF VAROSHA A TELECOMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE WAS SEEN IN SEVERAL STREETS. THEY OPENED TELEPHONE BOXES AND CHECKED THEIR OPERATION. THEY ALSO CHECKED TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT SEVERAL INTERSECTIONS. THE AREA AROUND THE CONSTANTIA HOTEL HAS NOT BEEN OPENED TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS FOR FREE ENTRY, BUT THE MAYOR OF FAMAGUSTA HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT THIS ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 1.

3. COMMENT: THE TURKISH ACTIONS REPORTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE DO NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THERE WILL BE AN EARLY OPENING OF THE PRESENTLY CLOSED RESIDENTIAL PARTS OF VAROSHA,
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BUT THE CHANGING OF STREET SIGNS INTO TURKISH NAMES HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ONE OF THE INDICATORS THAT FORMER GREEK AREAS WERE ABOUT TO BE OPENED TO TURK CYPRIOTS. THEREFORE, THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND REMAINS AS LAST REPORTED REF B, I.E., IT APPEARS THAT THE CONSTANTIA AREA WILL BE OPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT SO FAR THIS HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY ACCOMPLISHED. THE GOC ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE FAMAGUSTA QUESTION UNDOUBTEDLY WILL DRAW A SHARP REACTION FROM THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH HAS ALREADY STATED "TAKING THE ISSUE TO THE UNSC SERVED NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN TO WASTE THE WORLD BODY'S VALUABLE TIME WITH UNDUE COMPLAINTS."

4. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WHATEVER THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN VAROSHA, THE ISSUE OF ITS "REOPENING" IS TAKING ON NEW AND MORE IMPORTANT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS ON ALMOST DAILY BASIS. THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE SEIZED ON THE JULY 21 ECEVIT STATEMENT AND THE OPENING OF THE CONSTANTIA AREA TO PROVOKE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. THE LATTER HAVE REACTED SHARPLY AND VAROSHA NOW BECOMES ONE MORE SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION. WHILE WE ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT TURKISH MOTIVES FOR THE ORIGINAL PLAN TO OPEN THE CONSTANTIA AREA

WE HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE TURKS WOULD SEEK TO ASSURE THEIR
CONTROL OF FAMAGUSTA PORT IN ANY FINAL SOLUTION. OCCUPATION
OF THE NORTHERN PART OF VAROSHA ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE PORT,
I.E., THE CONSTANTIA AREA, APPEARS CONSONANT WITH THIS
OBJECTIVE.
CRAWFORD

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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